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08/939,064	09/29/97	KAMACHI T	SONY-P7815

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EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

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DATE MAILED: 01/05/01

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
08/939,064

Applicant(s)  
KAMACHI

Examiner  
Thomas Nguyen

Group Art Unit  
2173



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 13, 2000

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

## FINAL ACTION

### I. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. *Claim 1-2,5-7,10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elliott et al. US Patent 5,621,904 in view of Southgate U.S. Patent 5,487,143; and further in view of Santos-Gomez US 5,771,042.*

*As per claim 1,5-6:* Elliott discloses a system and method of an image display a main window for displaying main information and a sub window for displaying accompanying information associated with main information, and automatically arrangement changing the display position moving the sub window to main window within a preset predetermined value, and arranging of sub window to a position adjacent to main window without altering sub window's size (col.2 , line 40 to col.3, line 30; FIG.2), although Elliott's description of related art discloses user able manually move the sub-window to user specified position (col.1) but Elliott's system is automatically arrangement in accordance with preset value (abstract) which does not require user-specified position. However, Southgate discloses a user interface control allows the user to move from one area to area (abstract, claim 2). In regarding to conditional "if" sub window is moved to user specified position Santos discloses a snap region (Fig.4-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of invention to modify Elliott's system using Southgate's user interface control for moving a display position of sub window upon user-specified position, and Santos's "snap" feature because this give user composition of screen layout and furthermore displaying windows this way are utilizing display spaces effective and efficiently for user viewing without obscured information as suggested by Elliott/Southgate's

(col.1-2).

*As per claim 2,7,10:* Recite from claim 1, Elliott discloses a system for display a sub window adjacent to main window within a preset predetermined value, but Elliott's system discloses automatic arrangement by moves the sub window next to main window and alignment both windows in reserve order (lower side of subwindow with lower side of main window instead upper side see FIG.2,3,4A-B). However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of invention for change sub window coordinate to alignment the upper sides instead lower side of main window and sub window, because organizing the display windows this way it a matter of preference at the time programming design and in some cases may maximize the display area.

2. *Claim 3-4,8-9,11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elliott et al. US Patent 5,621,904 in view of Southgate U.S. Patent 5,487,143; and in view of Santos-Gomez US 5,771,042. and further in view of Liles et al. US Patent 5,880,731.*

*As per claim 3,8,11:* Recite from claim 1, but Elliott's image display system does not discloses the main window displays a 3D Virtual Reality and sub windows display a chat perform via an avatar. However, Liles teaches present invention system relates to a virtual space which allows avatar freely move to desired position in a shared in 3D virtual space (abstract, col.3-4, Fig.13). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of invention to combine Elliott's position windows display and Liles's disclosures for obtaining an image display which main window in 3D virtual reality space and sub window of a movable chat avatar, because this would enhance system performance and usability.

*As per claim 4,9,12:* Recite from claim 3, Liles's system describes in virtual world 3D graphic data network communication with the server (col.5-6) but does not disclose any particular language. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of invention to select a well known such as VRML (Virtual Reality Modeling Language) for implement the 3D graphics with avatar in Virtual Reality / Virtual space because this would enhance system performance efficiently / effectively in Virtual Reality environment.

## **II. Response to Applicant's argument:**

Appellant's central argument against the specification and applicability of *Elliott et al.*, *Southgate*, *Santos-Gomez* and *Liles et al.* systems in combination is that they do not teach or suggest Applicant's invention claims. However, Elliott's system and method for display a main window information and a sub window for displaying accompanying information associated with main information and automatically arrangement changing the display position moving the sub window to main window within a preset predetermined value, and arranging of sub window to a position adjacent to main window without altering sub window's size including a separated distance between the two windows (abstract, col.2 line 40 to col.3 line 30; Fig.2-3); but Elliott fails to teach user-specified position. However, while Southgate discloses a User interface controls are provided to allow the user to designate a displayed window as tiled or overlapped and the designated window is moved from area to area, accordingly (abstract) and Santos discloses a snap region as conditional "if" sub window is moved to user specified position such as The corner of a workspace may be snapped to the corner of adjacent workspaces to connect the workspaces and create the corner single size control separator (abstract, Fig.4-5). Therefore, the

Elliott et al. reference is fully discloses a system and method that intelligently positioning sub-window by main-window to reduce the aforementioned problem to over come the related prior-art (see col.1, line 41-67), and with Elliott's logic (Fig.3A-4B), and calculations / functions (col.3-6) which is eliminate burden / problem of prior-art such as obscure important information by overlapping or requiring user manually re-position. It is would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of invention for asserting the user interface task "for user-specified position" using Southgate's user interface control for moving a display position of sub window to a user-specified position, and Santos's "snap" feature because this give user composition of screen layout and furthermore displaying windows this way are utilizing display spaces effective and efficiently for user viewing without obscured information as suggested by Elliott/Southgate's (col.1-2).

In regarding to independent claims were amended to recite the sub window being moved "from a first position . . . to a user-specified position . . . without altering" window's size (page-8). Southgate's abstract discloses A method and apparatus for managing the display of multiple windows in a computer user interface in an efficient manner . . . User interface controls are provided to allow the user to designate a displayed window as tiled or overlapped and the designated window is moved from area to area, accordingly (Fig.5), and Elliott's system displayed main window and sub window without altering a height or a width of the sub window (abstract, Fig.2-3,4A-B).

Regarding to Applicant's Figs.29-32, and claims 1,5-6 (page 9), the Examiner found the similarity such as Elliott's Fig.2 ; Liles's Fig.13, Santos's claims's 1-2 combine with the rejection

as cited above would meet every features, limitation of Applicant's invention claims.

Other dependent claims are recited and rejecting in for a similar reason, in particular Liles et al discloses a Use of Avatar with automatic gesturing and bounded interaction in on-line chat session (title), the image displaying in a 3D Virtual Reality as FIG. 13 is a screen showing an example of an introductory Virtual World or room displayed when a user joins a chat session; but does not specify any particular computer software language. However, VRML (Virtual Reality Modeling Language) is a well known computer language to be use in computer for the Virtual Reality environment as Liles discloses (Fig.13), and furthermore Applicant admits the VRML version 2.0 publicized on August 4, 1996 as prior art.

Examiner has fully reconsidered the foregoing amendments including Applicant's remark but they are not deem to be persuasive as condition of invention claims for allowance for the reason which mentioned above.

### III. Conclusion

Accordingly, ***THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.*** See MEPE 706.07(a). Application is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory

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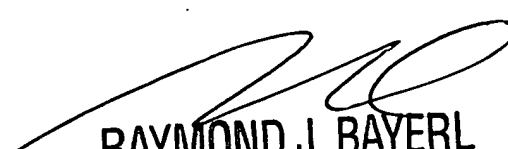
Art Unit: 2773

period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **Thomas Nguyen**, whose telephone number is (703) 308-7240. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 10:30 - 7:00 ET. Other inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Thomas T. Nguyen

January 04, 2001



RAYMOND J. BAYERL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2173